

The ChurchApps Onsite Residency

An overview for ministers and elders

Micheal and Kari Byrd are ministry resource partners who volunteer with ChurchApps, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free church software (B1, Lessons.church, FreePlay, and FreeShow). Most of their work — helping churches adopt these tools — happens online, which gives them the freedom to travel to churches that invite them and serve onsite.

During a residency, Micheal and Kari stay on or near your property in their RV for a minimum of two months and work alongside your senior minister and staff. This document explains what a residency involves, what it costs, and how to prepare — so your leadership can make an informed decision and your church gets the most from the stay.

WAYS THE RESIDENCY SERVES YOUR CHURCH

A visitor's-eyes evaluation. Serving year in and year out, things go unnoticed. Micheal and Kari walk your entire guest experience — parking to pew to follow-up — and provide honest, specific feedback on what newcomers actually see.

NextGen ministry evaluation. With over twenty-five years of NextGen experience, they assess curriculum, classrooms, check-in and child safety, and volunteer pipelines. Many of the systems inside ChurchApps were modeled on this experience and are proven in churches around the world.

Technology evaluation and full implementation. Whether your church has too much unused technology or too little, they've dealt with it. They implement the complete ChurchApps toolkit end to end — membership database, secure children's check-in, online giving, service planning, mobile app, website, curriculum scheduling, classroom TVs, and worship presentation — and train your people on all of it. Most churches have the ideas; they lack the time and hands. That is exactly what a residency provides.

Physical projects. They gladly take on the practical work that makes technology stick: mounting TVs, building check-in stations, running cables. The church purchases materials; they provide the labor and expertise.

Encouragement and training for staff and key volunteers. Ministry is hard, and having someone alongside who has lived the same struggles is often the most lasting gift of the stay. Everything they build is documented and handed off, and every residency church keeps an ongoing remote support relationship after they leave.

WHAT IT COSTS THE CHURCH

The residency itself is free, and all ChurchApps software is free — for everyone, forever. The church provides one thing: **a place for the RV to live.** Either a flat spot on church property with a 30-amp electrical hookup and access to water, a site at a nearby RV park covered by the church, or a member's land with the same hookups. Materials for any physical projects the church chooses to take on are purchased by the church.

WHY IS IT FREE?

ChurchApps builds software for churches, and software improves when its builders live inside real church life. What Micheal and Kari learn while serving your congregation directly shapes tools used by thousands of churches. Your church is not receiving charity — it is partnering to make ministry software better for the whole Church. Both sides win.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOUR LEADERSHIP

Residencies work best when the senior minister champions the stay and treats Micheal and Kari as trusted staff — pointing them at real work and letting them run. They do not require supervision, office space, or housing. Churches that arrive with genuine problems they want solved get the most from the two months. References from previous residency churches — eight congregations across six states — are available on request.

Before We Arrive

Preparation checklist for the host church

RV SITE (READY TWO WEEKS BEFORE ARRIVAL)

- ☐ A flat parking spot — 35 feet is comfortable; the RV is 26 feet
- ☐ 30-amp electrical hookup (an electrician can typically add a 30-amp RV outlet inexpensively — allow lead time)
- ☐ Water access (a standard spigot within hose reach)
- ☐ Sewer: a cleanout on the property is a bonus; otherwise the location of the nearest RV dump station
- ☐ Or: a reserved site at a nearby RV park, or arrangements on a member's land

ACCESS & PEOPLE

- ☐ Building access for Micheal and Kari (keys/codes) and Wi-Fi credentials
- ☐ A designated point person on staff for day-to-day questions
- ☐ Elders and staff informed of the residency and its purpose

THE WORK

- ☐ The senior minister's short list: the top problems you want solved in two months
- ☐ Current tools and logins inventory (database, giving, website, presentation software)
- ☐ For physical projects: agree on the list early so materials can be purchased in time

QUESTIONS BEFORE WE ARRIVE?

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Want to talk it through first?

Scan the code with your phone camera to grab a time on Micheal's calendar — or visit mautic.churchapps.org/book-micheal.html